

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Allowable Subject Matter***

1. **Claims 1-13** are allowed.

The following is a statement of reasons for allowance:

As for independent claims 1 and 9, they recite a multi-channel encoder and decoder operable to process input signals conveyed in a plurality of input channels to generate corresponding output data comprising down-mix output signal together with complementary parametric data. Prior art such as Craven and Thumpudi discloses a similar encoder and decoder but fails to teach an analyzer for processing the input signals, said analyzer being operable to generate said parametric data complementary to the down-mix output signals, said encoder being operable when generating the down-mix output signals for also generating said parametric data, wherein said parametric data is specifically configured (i) to allow for subsequent decoding of the down-mix output signals (ii) for predicting signals of channels processed and (iii)(2) then discarded within the encoder, thereby enabling a subsequent decoding via a decoder to substantially regenerate with enhanced accuracy the corresponding discarded channels previously discarded within the encoder by predicting information of the previously discarded channels from the down-mix output signals and the parametric data.

Dependent claims 2-8 and 10-13 are allowed because they further limit their parent claims.

***Conclusion***

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAKIEDA R. JACKSON whose telephone number is (571)272-7619. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 5:30am-2:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Hudspeth can be reached on 571-272-7843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Jakieda R Jackson/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2626  
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